

**City of Milpitas**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**Telecommunications Commission**  
**January 27, 2003**

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**I. Call to Order & Roll Call:**

Chair Alcorn called the meeting to order.

Members Present: A. Alcorn, N. Gupta, P. Peterson, R. Gopalaraa, V. Mathur, G. Ali-Santosa, I. Munir, D. Gupta, W. Lam, P. Gupta, A. Ettinger

I.S. Staff: B. Marion, E. Pasion City Council: A. Gomez

Members Absent,

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

The Commission recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Announcements:**

No announcements were made from the Commission or from staff.

**IV. Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S      N. Gupta/D. Gupta                      Ayes:    11

**V. Approval of the Minutes  
December 16, 2002**

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

M/S      N. Gupta/D. Gupta                      Ayes:    11

**VI. Citizen's Forum**

Mayor Jose Esteves welcomed the current and newly appointed members of the Telecommunications Commission and looked forward to working this group in future projects. He also reminded the Commissioners that the annual Commissioners Recognition dinner was scheduled for January 30 and invited the members to attend.

**VII. Continued-New Business:**

1. New Commissioner Appointments.

Staff reported to the Commission on the appointments and reappointments of membership. The City Council reappointed commissioners Alcorn, Ali-Santosa, Peterson and Gopalaraa to terms set to expire in January 2005. The City Council also appointed three new members to the commission. William Lam, Parveen Gupta, Alternate #1 and Aaron Ettinger, Alternate #2 bringing the Telecommunications Commission to full membership.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S      N. Gupta/D. Gupta                      Ayes:    11

2. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair 2003.

Commissioner Ali-Santosa noted that leadership and participation would be the utmost responsibility of the Chair and Vice Chair for this Commission. He expected those seats to have excellent attendance records.

With that Commissioner Albert Alcorn invited the Commissioners for nominations to the post of Chair. Commissioner Santosa nominated Albert Alcorn to serve as Chair. Commissioner Vishnu Mathur seconded that nomination. No other nominations were made for the post of Chair to the Telecommunications Commission. The Commission voted close that nomination and then voted unanimously to elect Albert Alcorn as Chair of the Telecommunications Commission for 2003.

Newly re-elected Chair Alcorn opened that floor for nominations to the post of Vice Chair to the Telecommunications Commission. Chair Alcorn started with nominating Commissioner Niranjan Gupta. Commissioner Ali-Santosa nominated Dinesh Gupta for the post of Vice Chair. No other nominations were made to the post of Vice Chair. Chair Alcorn called for a vote from the seated Commissioners on the Vice Chair nominations. Niranjan Gupta 6 and Dinesh Gupta 2. The Commission selected Niranjan Gupta as Vice Chair to the Telecommunications Commission for 2003.

3. Update of cable franchise AT&T-Comcast.

CIO, Bill Marion, provided a brief background of the cable television franchise and its numerous franchise holders. He also provided a summary on the various renewal methods offered by the FCC. Staff provided an overview via overhead presentation.

Staff is pursuing negotiations with AT&T-Comcast through a formal review of the cable television franchise. A review group comprised of the Commission Chair, the Assistant City Manager, I.S. staff and the cable consultants have been working on the cable renewal review process since late 2002. Additionally, input from the Milpitas community will be part of the overall review process. Franchise fee audit is also in the process with AT&T-Comcast.

Staff also reported on a pending federal case, with the City of Pasadena, that may also impact how cable-advertising revenue is reported and charged back to consumers as part of the overall revenue from the cable franchise holder. Internet service is also being reviewed as part of the franchise revenue and is current under appeal at the federal level.

As a side note, Commission Mathur asked what the effect of DSS home satellite services impacted on traditional cable services. Commissioner Munir noted that DSS service provides more channels, better overall quality, up to 25% less

in overall cost but does not have access to local government channels like Milpitas cable 15.

Staff noted that the City Council directed staff calculate cost on web casting its meetings on the Internet along with broadcasting the audio portion of the meeting over the city's radio station 1620 AM. Staff is also reviewing the idea of providing universal cable service with a set pricing.

Finally, a technical review will also be conducted on the on the cable system itself and the development of cable survey will be conducted at random throughout the Milpitas community.

Staff has developed a schedule of milestones, which covers the following; March cable survey of subscribers and nonsubscribers; April technical review; June-July needs assessment completed; October-documentation completed for final review and acceptance of cable franchise to City Council.

The Chair recommended that the completed draft cable survey and have a subcommittee of the Commission to review the questions and provide input and feedback to the group.

The four-member subcommittee would be lead by Commission Dinesh Gupta with support from Vishnu Mathur, Idrees Munir and William Lam.

Commissioner Pavreen Gupta noted that the franchise should be also provides better service and the overall quality of the cable service to the community.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S R. Gopalara/D. Gupta Ayes: 11

#### 4. December '02 Month I.S. Report.

CIO, Bill Marion reported on the monthly activities of the Information Services Department. Highlights included the review and return of funds from overcharges made by Nextel communications; establishing a secure internet connection to the department of justice for the Milpitas police department; continued work on the city's geographical information systems mapping project; purchase and installation of a web base video camera on the Crown Plaza Hotel for the city's dispatch center to observe and dispatch emergency response teams to the newly constructed SR 237-I880 interchange area; gathering information on costs to web cast audio and video of city council meetings over the internet.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S R. Gopalara/N. Gupta Ayes: 11

#### 5. Round Table Discussion.

Commissioner Mathur asked of the process in which the City Clerk post the agenda and minutes and how soon that normally took place.

Chair Alcorn requested the Commission to participate in a rehearsal of Telecommunications Commission Master Plan. The Commission review the Power Point presentation made the following additions; listing of all current members of the Telecommunications Commission.

Chair Alcorn invited the members to be present at the February 4, City Council meeting during that presentation.

#### **VIII. Adjournment of Meeting**

Chair Alcorn requested a motion to adjourn the to Monday, February 24, 2003.

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